

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

DOWNTOWN PARKING COMMITTEE AGENDA REPORT

DATE: February 9, 2012

TO: Downtown Parking Committee Members

FROM: Browning Allen, Transportation Manager

SUBJECT: ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee receive a staff report regarding the installation and operation of electric vehicle charging stations including parking and charging rates and make a recommendation to support the project.

DISCUSSION:

In May of 2011, Coulomb Technologies (Coulomb), based out of Campbell, California, approached the City regarding their ChargePoint America Program. The ChargePoint America Program focuses on electric vehicle infrastructure in the central coast of California. Because Coulomb has identified Santa Barbara as a destination point along the 101 Highway corridor, it is an ideal location for the installation of EV charging stations. The Coulomb project is funded by grants from the Department of Energy and the California Energy Commission.

To begin using the charging stations, customers will have the option to swipe their credit card or pre-purchased Coulomb access card. On Coulomb's website, customers are able to search the location of charging stations in California, reserve time at a station, and then plan a trip accordingly.

In June and October of 2011, The Parking Finance Subcommittee discussed the installation, operation and maintenance of the Coulomb charging stations. In the Subcommittee meetings, Committee members agreed that the project should be revenue neutral to the Parking Program and customers using the charging stations will also have to pay for parking in the lots.

Downtown Parking staff, working with Facilities staff has identified parking lots 6, 7, 11, Helena, Depot, and the Carrillo and Cota commuter lots for the installation of 19 charging stations. Coulomb will install the charging stations at no cost to the Parking Program. A total of 19 parking spaces will be available for EV vehicle owners. Designating these 19 spaces for EV charging stations will not impact Downtown Parking hourly revenue and will not displace those parkers with non-EV vehicles.

The cost of electricity is variable and determined by several factors, including type of demand, time of day, season of the year and total hours used. In order for Downtown

Parking to recoup the cost of electricity and use of the ChargePoint network, staff is proposing a per hour fee, ranging from \$2 to \$5.

SUMMARY:

Staff will be negotiating an agreement with Coulomb Technologies that provides for no cost installation of 19 charging stations. City Facilities staff will be responsible for maintenance of the EV chargers. Customers using the charging stations will pay a variable fee not more than \$5.00 per hour for charging. Customers will also pay their normal parking fees upon exiting.